

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAJ-01 /069 W

----- 060651

R 030945Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2293

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USAREUR HEIDELBERG

USEUCOM VAIHINGEN

UNCLAS STUTTGART 1019

USAREUR AND USEUCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJ: ROMMEL (CDU) WINS BIG IN STUTTGART LORD MAYOR ELECTION

REF: STUTTGART 959

1. SUMMARY. MANFRED ROMMEL (CDU) WINS WITH 58.9 PERCENT OF VOTE DECISIVELY DEFEATED SPD CANDIDATE PETER CONRADI (39.5 PERCENT) IN DECEMBER 1 LORD MAYOR ELECTION RUN-OFF. TURNOUT SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN NOVEMBER 10 CONTEST. EIGHT YEAR TERM BEGINS JANUARY 1. STUTTGART TO BECAOME ONLY ONE OF FRG'S 10 LARGEST CITIES WITH CDU LORD MAJOR, BUT PARTY A MINORITY IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. END SUMMARY.

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2. MANFRED ROMMEL (CDU), SON OF THE FAMOUS FIELD

MARSHAL, EMERGED SUPRISINGLY STRONG WINNER WITH 58.9 PERCENT OF VOTE IN DECEMBER 1 ELECTION AGAINST PETER CONRADI'S (SPD) 39.5. NOVEMBER 10 PRELIMINARY VOTING GAVE ROMMEL 44.2 PERCENT, CONRADI 31.2 AND KURT GEBHARDT (FDP) 16.8. FDP DID NOT OFFER CANDIDATE ON DECEMBER 1. VOTER INTEREST IN CONTEST REMAINED HIGH AND TURNOUT SLIGHTLY BETTERED PREVIOUS RECORD OF OVER 64 PERCENT ON NOVEMBER 10. ROMMEL'S EIGHT YEAR TERM BEGINS ON JANUARY 1 AND HE ALREADY BEING QUOTED AS HAVING NO FURTHER PERSONAL POLITICAL PLANS. RESULTS GIVE STUTTGART DISTINCTION OF BECOMING ONLY ONE OF FRG'S 10 LARGEST CITIES WITH CDU LORD MAJOR. SPD REMAINS STRONGEST POLITICAL FORCE IN 60 MEMBER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WITH 27 SEATS COMPARED TO CDU'S 20. COMMUNAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 20 MAY ALTER BALANCE.

3. COMMENT: CAMPAIGN CONTINUED FOCUS MORE ON PERSONALITIES THAN POLITICAL PARTIES. SYMPATHETIC, LOW-KEY, "FATHER FIGURE" IMAGE PROJECTED BY ROMMEL MORE APPEALING TO STUTTGARTERS THAN YOUNG ACTIVIST ROLE DEVELOPED BY CONRADI. ROMMEL AIDED BY FAMILY NAME, NATIONAL TREND TOWARD CDU, AND APPARENT LOCAL PREFERENCE FOR CDU IN TIME OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY. ROMMEL ALSO PROBABLY PICKED UP MUCH OF GEBHART (FDP) NOVEMBER 10 VOTE (16.8 PERCENT). MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER (CDU) PROCLAIMING LORD MAJOR ELECTION RESULTS AS CONFIRMATION OF CDU POLICIES.

JENKINS

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